

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 001617

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [ASEC](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: APRIL 19, 2005 (1600 HOURS LOCAL) --  
TWO ISRAELIS, ONE PALESTINIAN WOUNDED IN THE GAZA STRIP,  
FIVE PALESTINIANS ARRESTED IN THE WEST BANK.

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: In the West Bank, IDF troops arrested three Hamas members and two Fatah militants on April 18. IDF troops in Nablus found three kilograms of explosives hidden in a house in Askar refugee camp on April 18. The IDF imposed a curfew on Burqa village, north of Nablus, on April 18 after a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli car. In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sniper fire wounded one IDF soldier and one Israeli civilian April 18 near an IDF outpost north of Rafah. IDF soldiers shot and seriously injured one Palestinian April 18 south of Bayt Lahiya. End Summary.

-----  
West Bank  
-----

2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths/Injuries: Nil.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops arrested two Hamas members from Silwad village, northeast of Ramallah, on April 18. The arrested Palestinians were reportedly planning to carry out a shooting attack on Route 160.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian reports, IDF soldiers arrested a Hamas militant on April 18 when he was driving in his car near Surda village, north of Ramallah.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, IDF soldiers arrested two Fatah members in Bayt Furik village, near Nablus, on April 18.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops in Nablus found three kilograms of explosives hidden in a house in Askar refugee camp on April 18. The house was badly damaged when soldiers defused the bomb. A Hamas activist who was arrested two days ago apparently led the IDF to the explosives.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian media, Palestinian residents of Hebron complained that Hebron settlers vandalized Palestinian cars and homes on April 17-18.

3. (SBU) CURFEWS/DEMOLITIONS:

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF imposed a curfew on Burqa village, north of Nablus, on April 18 after a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli car.

-- According to Palestinian reports, residents of al-Khadr village, near Bethlehem, reported that Gush Etzion settlers uprooted hundreds of trees outside their village on April 17-18.

4. (SBU) CHECKPOINTS:

-- According to Palestinian media, the Israeli commander in charge of Qalandia checkpoint at the southern entrance to Ramallah stated April 18 that the checkpoint will be open 24 hours as opposed to closing at midnight. The commander also reportedly said that many permits were given to businessmen to use the Bayt El checkpoint into and out of Ramallah.

----  
Gaza  
----

5. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: The IDF and Israeli media reported that Palestinian sniper fire wounded one IDF soldier and one Israeli civilian April 18 near an IDF outpost north of Rafah where the two men were carrying out what the IDF spokesman

described as infrastructure work along the Philadelphia route (see "Shootings"). The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) took responsibility for the attack.

-- Injury: Palestinians reported that IDF soldiers shot and seriously injured one Palestinian April 18 south of Bayt Lahiya. The man was working in his fields when the soldiers mistook him for an armed gunman, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired one mortar shell at Tel Katifa, in the Gush Katif settlement bloc, April.

-- Mortars/Rockets: UNRWA reported that militants fired two homemade rockets at Tel Katifa settlement and a mortar shell each at Morag and Nissanit April 18.

-- Shootings: According to the IDF, Palestinian militants launched a total of three shooting attacks at IDF and Israeli settler targets overnight April 18-19. One IDF soldier and one Israeli civilian were injured (see "Injuries").

#### 16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open April 19, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open April 18, and 4,550 laborers and 420 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone open April 18, and 673 laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers but open for the import of aggregates used in construction April 19.

-- Karni Terminal was open April 19.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures April 19.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed April 19. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi. Pearce